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EXAMPLES OF BOLSHEVIST WORK AND REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE

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In the United States a demonstration of 30,000 unemployed workers who had been dismissed from the Ford works in Detroit held a demonstration in March, 1932, under the leadership of Communists. The unemployed demonstrators marched to the factory and collided with the police, who barred their way. A battle occurred. Originally the crowd retreated. Two young Communists (a boy and a girl) then displayed special heroism, taking up the leadership of the crowd which followed them and broke through the police cordon. In this clash three workers were killed and many were wounded on both sides.

In October, 1932, the C. P. of the United States organised in Chicago a united front conference of the unemployed. On October 31 an unemployed demonstration was organised in the same city with the participation of 30,000 people. As a result of this demonstration the 50 per cent reduction of the unemployment allowance affecting 150,000 jobless workers was cancelled.

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In the cases of Madeleine de Voulf and the young people who headed the demonstration in Detroit and carried the masses against the police cordon, we see the mass struggle itself breeds heroes.

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We have cited various instances of good Bolshevik revolutionary work and of Bolshevik revolutionary struggles. We could cite a good many other examples of this kind. They are symptomatic of the present period, of the period of transition through a new series of revolutions and wars. They confirm Lenin's thesis that the revolutionary upsurge and the entry upon the arena of the struggle of the greatest masses breeds a wealth and diversity of forms of the movement. This does not in the least remove the question of the backwardness of our Parties compared with the enormous revolutionary possibilities, a backwardness which remains an unquestionable fact. This does not in the least remove the task of tireless self-criticism. On the contrary, the greater the swing of the movement the greater the demands it makes on the Communist Parties. But if self-criticism is

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necessary in order that our Parties might learn by their mistakes and correct them, it is no less necessary to acquaint our entire body of Communist activists with our achievements, with the examples of truly Bolshevik revolutionary work clearly demonstrating how it is possible under the present conditions to surmount the difficulties of the struggle, inflict blows at the class enemy, undermine the influence of the social-fascist class agency of the bourgeoisie, broaden the revolutionary front, bring up the reserves to the revolutionary vanguard, cause demoralisation in the army, steel ourselves in the battles, fire ourselves with revolutionary enthusiasm, inflame the masses with revolutionary enthusiasm and thus show how to prepare for the decisive battles for power. These examples of good revolutionary work must be popularised in the most extensive manner so as to cause a revolutionary competition. The different instances of good revolutionary work must be popularised in every section of the Comintern the more so since the revolutionary movement is developing unevenly, and the danger therefore arises that certain detachments of our revolutionary army will be taken up by some particular form of struggle, which may be especially accessible, suitable and popular at the given place and at the given moment, and will prove to be incapable of quickly changing the forms of the movement under the modern conditions when the situation speedily changes and when the victory of the proletariat presupposes an ability to use every arm available in our international arsenal of struggle.